

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
 - 2 (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
 - 3 (b) monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and
 - 4 (c) discarding at least a portion of the accounting information based on the
 - 5 monitored aspect.

- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting information is
- 2 discarded for providing a defense against network attacks.

- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting information is
- 2 discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.

- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 3, and further comprising generating a
- 2 summary of the accounting information.

- 1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect
- 2 of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan of a
- 3 plurality of ports.

- 1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect
- 2 of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan of a
- 3 plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

- 1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect
- 2 of the received accounting information includes monitoring a rate of receipt
- 3 of the accounting information.

1 8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect
2 of the received accounting information includes detecting whether the rate of
3 receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.

1 9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect
2 of the received accounting information includes monitoring a load on a
3 system receiving the accounting information.

1 10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 11. A computer program product for processing network accounting information,
2 comprising:
3 (a) computer code for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched
4 network;
5 (b) computer code for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting
6 information; and
7 (c) computer code for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information
8 based on the monitored aspect.

1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the
2 accounting information is discarded for providing a defense against network
3 attacks.

1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the
2 accounting information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.

1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, and further comprising
2 computer code for generating a summary of the accounting information.

1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer
2 code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting
3 information includes computer code for detecting a scan of a plurality of
4 Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer
2 code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting
3 information includes computer code for monitoring a rate of receipt of the
4 accounting information.

1 17. The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer
2 code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting
3 information includes computer code for detecting whether the rate of receipt
4 of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.

1 18. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer
2 code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting
3 information includes computer code for detecting a scan of a plurality of
4 ports.

1 19. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer
2 code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting
3 information includes computer code for monitoring a load on a system
4 receiving the accounting information.

1 20. A system for processing network accounting information, comprising:
2 (a) logic for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
3 (b) logic for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting
4 information; and

5 (c) logic for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information based on
6 the monitored aspect.

1 21. A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
2 (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
3 (b) monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and
4 (c) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on
5 the monitored aspect.

1 22. A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
2 (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
3 (b) receiving an indication relating to at least one aspect of the received
4 accounting information; and
5 (c) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on
6 the indication.

1 23. A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
2 (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
3 (b) detecting a scan of a plurality of ports;
4 (c) detecting a scan of a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses;
5 (d) detecting a rate of receipt of the accounting information;
6 (e) detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a
7 predetermined amount;
8 (f) detecting a load on a system receiving the accounting information;
9 (g) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on
10 aspects detected during steps (b)-(f); and
11 (h) generating a summary of the accounting information.